

INCOMING TELEGRAM*Department of State*~~CONFIDENTIAL~~30
Action
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FROM: TEHRAN

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TO: Secretary of State

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EMBASSY IN ITS AIRGRAM G-64 DATED NOV 14 PARA 5 COVERED THIS POINT RE SANANDAJI'S THREAT CLOSE MOUTH OF SHATT ON BASIS CLAIM IRANIAN TERRITORIAL WATERS COVERED ENTRANCE SHATT. SAME COMMENT ALSO APPLIES.

WE BELIEVE IN ADDITION THAT IRAN GOVT LEADERS WOULD HESITATE TO MAKE THIS TENUOUS CLAIM OR TAKE SUCH ACTION. THEY CURRENTLY SEEM MORE INCLINED: (1) BASE CASE FOR EQUAL VOICE SHATT ON IRAQI-INSPIRED GRIEVANCES CLAIMING THAT IT IS THE IRAQIS WHO ARE BEING UNREASONABLE; (2) THEREFORE, IRANIANS SAY IRAN HAS NO CHOICE EXCEPT TO CONSIDER THAT THE IRAQIS THEMSELVES HAVE ABROGATED 1937 TREATY WHICH (3) MAKES IT INCUMBENT UPON IRANIANS TO FALL BACK ON CONTENTION IRAN WANTS SHATT BOUNDARY ESTABLISHED AT THALWEG. THIS COURSE THEY MAINTAIN IS IN CONFORMITY WITH PRINCIPLES OF INTERNATIONAL LAW.

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